

**§ 4312. Engine cut-off switches**

(a) **INSTALLATION REQUIREMENT.**—A manufacturer, distributor, or dealer that installs propulsion machinery and associated starting controls on a covered recreational vessel shall equip such vessel with an engine cut-off switch and engine cut-off switch link that meet American Boat and Yacht Council Standard A-33, as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017.

(b) **EDUCATION ON CUT-OFF SWITCHES.**—The Commandant of the Coast Guard, through the National Boating Safety Advisory Committee established under section 15105, may initiate a boating safety program on the use and benefits of cut-off switches for recreational vessels.

(c) **AVAILABILITY OF STANDARD FOR INSPECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Commandant shall transmit American Boat and Yacht Council Standard A-33, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017, to—

(A) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(C) the Coast Guard Office of Design and Engineering Standards; and

(D) the National Archives and Records Administration.

(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—The standard submitted under paragraph (1) shall be kept on file and available for public inspection at such Coast Guard office and the National Archives and Records Administration.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED RECREATIONAL VESSEL.**—The term “covered recreational vessel” means a recreational vessel that is—

(A) less than 26 feet overall in length; and

(B) capable of developing 115 pounds or more of static thrust.

(2) **DEALER.**—The term “dealer” means any person who is engaged in the sale and distribution of recreational vessels or associated equipment to purchasers whom the seller in good faith believes to be purchasing any such vessel or associated equipment for purposes other than resale.

(3) **DISTRIBUTOR.**—The term “distributor” means any person engaged in the sale and distribution of recreational vessels and associated equipment for the purposes of resale.

(4) **MANUFACTURER.**—The term “equipment manufacturer” means any person engaged in the manufacture, construction, or assembly of recreational vessels or associated equipment, or the importation of recreational vessels into the United States for subsequent sale.

(5) **PROPULSION MACHINERY.**—The term “propulsion machinery” means a self-contained propulsion system, and includes, but is not limited to, inboard engines, outboard motors, and sterndrive engines.

(6) **STATIC THRUST.**—The term “static thrust” means the forward or backwards

thrust developed by propulsion machinery while stationary.

(Added Pub. L. 115-282, title V, § 503(a), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4270.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (c)(1), probably means the date of enactment of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-282, which enacted this section and was approved Dec. 4, 2018. No act with the title “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017” has been enacted.

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 115-282, which was approved Dec. 4, 2018.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Pub. L. 115-282, title V, § 503(c), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4271, provided that: “Section 4312 of title 46, United States Code, as amended [probably should be “enacted”] by this section, shall take effect one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 4, 2018].”

**CHAPTER 45—UNINSPECTED COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY VESSELS**

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**AMENDMENTS**

2018—Pub. L. 115-282, title V, § 508(d), title VI, § 601(c)(1), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4273, 4289, added item for 4503a and struck out item 4508 “Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee”.

2010—Pub. L. 111-281, title VI, § 604(c)(4), (e)(2), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2965, 2966, substituted “Fishing, fish tender, and fish processing vessel certification” for “Fish processing vessel certification” in item 4503 and “Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee” for “Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Advisory Committee” in item 4508.

2002—Pub. L. 107-295, title III, § 331(b), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2105, inserted “Safety” before “Advisory Committee” in item 4508.

1988—Pub. L. 100-424, § 2(a), Sept. 9, 1988, 102 Stat. 1585, in chapter heading substituted “UNINSPECTED COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY VESSELS” for “FISH PROCESSING VESSELS”, substituted “Safety standards” for “Regulations” in item 4502, “Fish processing vessel certification” for “Equivalency” in item 4503, “Prohibited acts” for “Penalties” in item 4504, and added items 4505 to 4508.

**§ 4501. Application**

(a) This chapter applies to an uninspected vessel which is a fishing vessel, fish processing vessel, or fish tender vessel.

(b) This chapter does not apply to the carriage of bulk dangerous cargoes regulated under chapter 37 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 98-364, title IV, § 402(7)(C), July 17, 1984, 98 Stat. 446; amended Pub. L. 100-424, § 2(a), Sept. 9, 1988, 102 Stat. 1585.)

**AMENDMENTS**

1988—Pub. L. 100-424 amended section generally, in subsec. (a) substituting provisions which related to un-

inspected fish processing vessel entered into service after Dec. 31, 1987, having more than 16 individuals on board primarily employed in preparation of fish on navigable waters of United States or owned in United States and operating on high seas, for provisions which related to uninspected fishing vessel, fish processing vessel, or fish tender vessel, and in subsec. (b) substituting "carriage of bulk" for "carriage of liquid bulk".

FOREIGN BUILT VESSELS, EQUIVALENT COMPLIANCE  
UNTIL JULY 28, 1990

Pub. L. 100-424, §7, Sept. 9, 1988, 102 Stat. 1592, provided that: "Until July 28, 1990, a foreign built fish processing vessel subject to chapter 45 of title 46, United States Code, is deemed to comply with the requirements of that chapter if—

"(1) it has an unexpired certificate of inspection issued by a foreign country that is a party to an International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea to which the United States Government is a party; and

"(2) it is in compliance with the safety requirements of that foreign country that apply to that vessel."

**§ 4502. Safety standards**

(a) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations which require that each vessel to which this chapter applies shall be equipped with—

(1) readily accessible fire extinguishers capable of promptly and effectively extinguishing a flammable or combustible liquid fuel fire;

(2) at least one readily accessible life preserver or other lifesaving device for each individual on board;

(3) an efficient flame arrestor, backfire trap, or other similar device on the carburetors of each inboard engine which uses gasoline as fuel;

(4) the means to properly and efficiently ventilate enclosed spaces, including engine and fuel tank compartments, so as to remove explosive or flammable gases;

(5) visual distress signals;

(6) other equipment required to minimize the risk of injury to the crew during vessel operations, if the Secretary determines that a risk of serious injury exists that can be eliminated or mitigated by that equipment; and

(7) a placard as required by regulations prescribed under section 10603(b) of this title.

(b)(1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations requiring the installation, maintenance, and use of the equipment in paragraph (2) of this subsection for vessels to which this chapter applies that—

(A) operate beyond 3 nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured or beyond 3 nautical miles from the coastline of the Great Lakes;

(B) operate with more than 16 individuals on board; or

(C) in the case of a fish tender vessel, engage in the Aleutian trade.

(2) The equipment to be required is as follows:

(A) alerting and locating equipment, including emergency position indicating radio beacons;

(B) subject to paragraph (3), a survival craft that ensures that no part of an individual is

immersed in water sufficient to accommodate all individuals on board;

(C) at least one readily accessible immersion suit for each individual on board that vessel when operating on the waters described in section 3102 of this title;

(D) marine radio communications equipment sufficient to effectively communicate with land-based search and rescue facilities;

(E) navigation equipment, including compasses, nautical charts, and publications;

(F) first aid equipment and medical supplies sufficient for the size and area of operation of the vessel; and

(G) ground tackle sufficient for the vessel.

(3) Except for a nonapplicable vessel, an auxiliary craft shall satisfy the equipment requirement under paragraph (2)(B) if such craft is—

(A) necessary for normal fishing operations;

(B) readily accessible during an emergency; and

(C) capable, in accordance with the Coast Guard capacity rating, when applicable, of safely holding all individuals on board the vessel to which the craft functions as an auxiliary.

(c)(1) In addition to the requirements described in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the Secretary may prescribe regulations establishing the standards in paragraph (2) of this subsection for vessels to which this chapter applies that—

(A)(i) were built after December 31, 1988, or undergo a major conversion completed after that date; and

(ii) operate with more than 16 individuals on board; or

(B) in the case of a fish tender vessel, engage in the Aleutian trade.

(2) The standards shall be minimum safety standards, including standards relating to—

(A) navigation equipment, including radars and fathometers;

(B) lifesaving equipment, immersion suits, signaling devices, bilge pumps, bilge alarms, life rails, and grab rails;

(C) fire protection and firefighting equipment, including fire alarms and portable and semiportable fire extinguishing equipment;

(D) use and installation of insulation material;

(E) storage methods for flammable or combustible material; and

(F) fuel, ventilation, and electrical systems.

(d)(1) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations for the operating stability of a vessel to which this chapter applies—

(A) that was built after December 31, 1989; or

(B) the physical characteristics of which are substantially altered after December 31, 1989, in a manner that affects the vessel's operating stability.

(2) The Secretary may accept, as evidence of compliance with this subsection, a certification of compliance issued by the person providing insurance for the vessel or by another qualified person approved by the Secretary.

(e) In prescribing regulations under this chapter, the Secretary—